MAR 1 2 2004 %

1-H-8-17-XJ

PATENT

N THE WINDS STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

S/N 09/438,676

BLACH ET AL.

Examiner:

G. DAWSON

Serial No.:

09/438,676

Group Art Unit:

3761

Filed:

NOVEMBER 12, 1999

Docket No.:

12460.1USC4

Title:

NASAL SUPPORT DEVICE FOR DOMESTIC MAMMALS AND

METHOD

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March , 2004.

By: (I) Name: Carla J. Mauch

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c))

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted after the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits or a first Office Action after filing a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 or a CPA under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d), but before the mailing date of: i) a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113; ii) a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311; or iii) an action that otherwise closes prosecution on the application. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a

03/15/2004 HLE333 00000029 09438676

01 FC:1806

180.00 OP

reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

23552

Date: March 9, 7004

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

P.O. Box 2903

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903

(612) 332-5300

Karen A. Fitzsimmons

Reg. No. 50,470

KAF:cjm